Bar on candidates for contesting from more than one constituency

5433. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce any Bill regarding proposal to bar candidates from contesting elections from more than one Lok Sabha constituency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No, sir. A proposal to bar candidates from contesting elections from more than one Lok Sabha Constituency was discussed in the all-party meeting on electoral reforms held on 22.5.1998 and the consensus in the meeting was in favour of maintaining *status quo*. The view has also found endorsement from the Election Commission of India.

Electoral Reforms

5434. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to finalise and introduce Electoral Reforms;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard and the results thereof; and

(c) the details of time bound action plan to deal with comprehensive electoral reforms and action plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government keeps reviewing the electoral laws. A meeting of the political parties was held on 22.5.1998 Recently, a meeting of leaders of political parties was again convened on 13.5.2000 to discuss the issue of extending, upto the year 2026, the current constitutional embargo on undertaking fresh delimitation of electoral constituencies which is going to expire with the publication of figures of the next population census, and some other connected issues. Follow-up action is under examination.

(c) Amendment in electoral laws is a serious and contentious subject and, therefore, considerable time and attention are needed. It is, therefore, not